

Sounds Modern

Elizabeth McNutt, director

presents

Recyclers

for ensemble and recorded sounds

Andrew May (2009)

Saturday, May 2, 2009, 2:00 pm

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

Recyclers explores the recycling and imitation of sounds.

Mockingbirds, among the world's most inspired mimics, inspired the composition. Mockingbirds learn to imitate other birds' songs (among other sounds) and incorporate them into their song. Humans, too, imitate and recycle the sounds we hear into our own songs and stories; technologies for recording and manipulating sound have made us even more avid recyclers. In this piece, both species' brands of mimicry are heard.

Recyclers is based on sounds of a Northern Mockingbird recorded in 2008 by Nathan Pieplow in Big Bend National Park, Texas, used with kind permission of Nathan Pieplow and the Macaulay Library at Cornell University. The piece was written for the Nova Ensemble in celebration of Earth Day 2009.

This performance features twelve human performers from the Nova Ensemble, accompanied by six virtual recyclers – recordings of processed mockingbird songs – and twelve human performers acting as live “recyclers.” Wild bird songs combine with instruments from the classical concert hall to create a hybrid interior/exterior Texas landscape. The balconies of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth stand in for the trees where the Northern Mockingbird (the state bird of Texas) might be found singing.

Personnel

Flute

Katrina Elsnick
Laura Erickson
Jinhee Jung
Elizabeth McNutt
Adriana Potoczniak
Inna Staneva

Violin

Emily Cole

Cello

Andrew Broz
Jeong Suk Lee

Clarinet

Sam Ross

Percussion

Jonathan Jackson

French horn

Susan Anderson

Acknowledgements

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